

THE INDEPENDENT

— ISSUED —

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F. J. TESTA, Proprietor and Publisher.

Residing in Honolulu.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1904.

THE COLOR LINE.

The Advertiser, which has been most earnest in an endeavor to effect and promote a color line in the politics of the islands, appears this morning with a new sensation. In a local article headed "White Democrats are opposed to instructions" it would have it appear that there is a disagreement between white and native Democrats as to just that should be done. The facts are that nothing of the kind is the case—if we know what is going on in the political arena, and we think we do. White, black, brown, red, yellow and every other color of Democrats are working together for a delegation to St. Louis that will place its vote in the spot where it will do the most good for the islands. There has not been, and will not be, any division on color or race lines, other than that invented by the morning press, and inventions from that source will, of course, not be taken seriously by decent people.

We gather that there is question, and a big one, among Democrats, as to whether or not the delegation to St. Louis should or should not go instructed. White men differ on the matter and native Democrats are also divided. It is a question that must be fought out in the primaries and in the Territorial convention. A large meeting of natives Friday evening agreed by a majority vote to support the idea of an instructed delegation. Another meeting Sat-

urday evening, composed almost of haoles, was unanimous for an instructed delegation. Another meeting of mixed nationalities on Sunday seemed to favor an uninstructed delegation. Thus far there has been no division of sentiment on color lines except as it may have appeared to the fertile imagination of the morning press.

Work Given To Coolies.

We have a most excellent illustration of Republican party methods in the business of the transport Leggett at this port. The vessel is enlisting at Honolulu twenty-eight Japanese carpenters and other mechanics to do work on the Midway Islands. It is true that the salaries of these coolies are to be paid by the cable company, but they are engaged with the sanction of the Navy Department and are transported to their field of operation by the Government, making them, to all intents and purposes, Government employees. Are there not enough idle citizen workmen in Honolulu that would be glad to take the work? We respectfully submit that there are. It is little use for citizens to struggle overtime for the protection of our own workmen and the homes they represent, when the Government itself deliberately gives out desirable employment to persons who are not citizens and cannot become such.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

It is understood that Merriam, the young man with the map of Jerusalem on his face, will be appointed to succeed Registrar Thrum in the conveyancing office. "Ray for Jerusalem!"

And so our only Senator L. L. McCandless is soon to join the great army of Benedicts, the Advertiser being the authority. But what is to become of these he left behind here, are they to mourn his loss or their gain?

Certain criminal cases of over a year's standing still appear on the Court calendar as being undisposed of. Some of these are of public interest. Why this laxity in prosecution? Is it intended to finally hush these matters up altogether? Or is it because there are others higher in influence implicated?

Thus far Frank Nichols is the only local man that has made a move toward having a pugilistic program with men on the visiting war vessels. As we have stated before there are good men on the ships, and all that is needed to bring out scrappers in every class, except heavyweight, is that the local men come forward.

The Advertiser states that Secretary Atkinson will be acting governor in the absence of Governor Carter. In the words of Congressman Bailey, we "object." Kate Kelley is the acting governor of this Territory, and her right to the title and office dates back to the time when Jack Atkinson was playing hooky from school. We demand that Governor Kate be brought out before the footlights and adorned with the authority belonging to her by right of seniority and precedent.

The Democratic central commit-

tee, so we understand, has ruled that bona fide Democratic voters shall vote in the coming primary in the precinct in which they live and expect to register in September, in place of in the precinct in which they registered last time. That is as it should be, from the standpoint of convenience and uniformity, although it is against the general law. However, the ruling will set at rest the status of hundreds of voters and that is a great deal.

If the Japs don't hurry up and lick the Russians they will be unable to claim any credit in this war at all. The Star already has the Russians pleading, on bended knees, for peace, and the Advertiser of this morning is speculating on just how much of Siberia the Japanese shall have. The thing may be all right, but it is a little hard on the men doing the fighting to have papers away over here in Honolulu directing the movements of the troops and coming in for the credit of victories.

Why was it that the Territory permitted Andrew Brown, late Superintendent of Water Works, to take a trip abroad, especially at this time when the embezzlement cases against E. Vivian Richardson, ex-clerk are to come up? Isn't he the chief witness in these cases? Probably it all comes from having some mighty influences on "the square." The Territory's law department must be very lax as to its duty in the premises as well as towards the public, but in other less important matters of a personal nature, it appears to be very strenuous, energetic and on deck.

Certain Democrats seem to be making themselves pretty "numerous" in discussing party plans with the Republican press of Honolulu. If members of the central committee would follow the example of the workers of the party and saw wood, the results would be a great deal better. The question of whether Hawaii's delegation to St. Louis shall be instructed or uninstructed will be determined by the convention on June 6. Let it go at that. This talk by members of the central committee to Republican newspapers does no good and results in confusion.

Territorial officials are very strenuous to push matters forward when they are especially spurred on, and particularly when it is against a political opponent who happens to fall into their clutches by complaint of a supposed and alleged aggrieved party, presumably within their political camp and of their stripe. When this is the case, they appear to be somewhat aggressive, condescending at times towards a certain amount of conciliatory latitude; yet their aggressiveness appears facetious and unfounded, because of the many matters remaining postponed and deferred from time to time in order to gain delay and may finally be altogether quieted, hushed and called or dropped entirely from the boards of public interest, gaze and scrutiny. Precedents are many and innumerable, but we need not cite any for fear of treading upon other's corns; but suffice it for us to say that the energy displayed in certain personal grievances are unnecessary and unwarranted.

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